

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated March 24, 2004, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration based on the above claim amendments and the following remarks. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance. The present amendment is filed concurrently with an RCE, and therefore entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-27 and 29 were rejected in the office action. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-9, 11, 13, 14, 16 and 21-24 have been amended. Claims 12, 17-20 and 25 have been cancelled. Claims 30-37 have been added. Therefore, upon entry of this response, claims 1-11, 13-16, 21-24, 26, 27 and 29-37 will be pending in the application. No new matter has been added.

The present invention contemplates, in one embodiment, a system for enabling call scheduling on an automated telephone network consisting of a service switching point (SSP), a service node (SN), a service control point (SCP) and a telephone station associated with a scheduling party. The call schedule information, which is entered by the scheduling party on the telephone station, contains time, date, telephone number to be called, and a telephone number for the confirmation call. The service switching point (SSP), service node (SN) and service control point (SCP) interact to place the confirmation call and the scheduled call based on the received call schedule information.

Claims 1-27 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,848,132 to Morley *et al.* ("Morley") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,674,851 to Brush *et al.* ("Brush"). As a result of the foregoing claim amendments and additions, independent claims 1, 16 and 26 now recite a system and method for placing a confirmation call to an alternate telephone number identified by the scheduling party. Support for such amendments are found throughout the present specification. In particular, the specification states, "the SSP accepts [call schedule] information from [the] telephone interface The call schedule information preferably includes . . . 3) the confirmation number to call prior to placing the scheduled call." (*Specification* – page 9, lines 16-20). Applicant respectfully submits that Morley and Brush do not teach, disclose, or suggest the subject matter covered in claims 1, 16 and 26.

Morley teaches a system that prompts a scheduling party to schedule a call to a particular telephone number. (*Morley* - Column 4, lines 14-15). In addition, Morley allows for placing a confirmation call. (*Morley* - Column 4, lines 34-38). However, Morley's location of the confirmation call is based on the "*customer[s] calling line identity*." (*Morley* - Column 3, lines 57-60) (emphasis added). In other words, the call to which the confirmation is made automatically is assigned the telephone number from which the scheduled call was booked. Therefore, neither Morley nor Brush allow a user to schedule a call while at work, for example, but receive the confirmation call at home. Instead, the user is limited to receiving the confirmation call at the same telephone number from which scheduling call is made. This is to be distinguished from independent claims 1, 16, 26 and 30, which recite placing a confirmation call to an *alternate telephone number identified by the scheduling party*.

Also, this limited teaching is consistent with Morley's flow diagram shown in Figure 3. Figure 3 explicitly discloses a system for entering specific call information while scheduling the call consisting of the date, time and telephone number to be called. Yet, while mentioning other types of user inputted information, the system depicted in Figure 3 makes no mention of enabling a scheduling party to enter the telephone number for the confirmation call. In addition, Brush does not explicitly teach booking and placing scheduled telephone calls.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that independent claims 1, 16 and 26 are distinguished over the teachings of Morley in view of Brush for at least the reasons given above and that the 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejection should be withdrawn. Finally, because claims 2-11, 13-15, 21-24, 27 and 29 depend from independent claims 1, 16 and 26, the rejections of these dependent claims cannot stand for the same reasons noted above by Applicant.

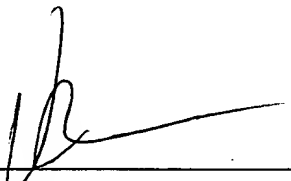
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PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116**

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested. In the event that the Examiner cannot allow the present application for any reason, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney, Vincent J. Roccia at (215) 564-8946, to discuss resolution of any remaining issues.

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